

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE**

**APPLICATION
TEACH PROGRAM**

(Teaching Educators Agriculture and Conservation Holistically)

Summer 2006

International Agricultural Expedition to Mexico

Contacts

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**PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATION BY APRIL 24, 2006, IN HARD
COPY AND ELECTRONIC FORMAT USING MICROSOFT WORD OR RICH
TEXT FORMAT TO:**

ATTN: TEACH
USDA/FAS/OA/CRO/VTHOMPSON
1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Room 6508
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**TEACH PROGRAM
(Teaching Educators Agriculture and Conservation Holistically)**

Project Summary

TEACH is a global agriculture program in which teachers from urban and rural areas with low to moderate-income populations gain valuable international experience in agriculture, natural resources, nutrition, and knowledge on the global impact of agriculture while engaging in hands-on agricultural and scientific research activities. Previously known as TEACH US, the TEACH Program was created and funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in order to promote the awareness of agricultural and environmental sciences in middle and high schools.

The TEACH Program will send teachers to Mexico to observe and work with agricultural scientists in the field. Educators selected for participation in the TEACH Program will gain first-hand exposure and experience in agricultural and scientific research. Teachers will use this international field experience to incorporate agriculture, science, and global studies curricula in their individual classrooms. In addition to the international agricultural expedition, participants will engage in pre-trip preparation and extended follow-up activities.

TEACH Objectives:

1. Expand students' knowledge and teachers' skills in the fields of food, agriculture and natural resources within targeted urban and rural school systems primarily in low to moderate -income populations.
2. Provide teachers and students with information and resources to pursue job opportunities and careers in the field of agriculture.
3. Maintain and enhance demonstrated excellence in the education and production of future agricultural, food and environmental scientists by actively increasing the talent reflective of the nation's diversity.
4. Contribute positively to efforts to improve science competency among primary and secondary students within the targeted school systems.
5. Enhance knowledge and practices in the field of natural resource conservation including pollution reduction, conservation of resources, and shifting resource consumption to more sustainable patterns.
6. Promote training and support of teachers in their efforts to interpret cultures from other countries for their students, and incorporate international agricultural elements within the science curriculum.)
7. Encourage teachers to share their cross cultural experience so that students can discover the global effects of agriculture, thus promoting student/teacher exchange.

TEACH

Summer 2006 International Agricultural Expedition: Mexico

A collaboration between U.S. Department of Agriculture agencies: Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service (CSREES), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Forest Service (FS), and the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE).

Program: One international agricultural expedition to Mexico will take place June 17–July 1, 2006.

The overarching themes for this study tour are tropical ecology and sustainable agriculture, to include trade, food safety, nutrition, animal and plant health, and development.

Participants will have opportunities to interface with farmers, educators, and researchers working on a variety of agricultural, environmental, food and nutritional issues.

During the expedition, educators will experience a diversity of environments from sub-tropical rainforests on the Atlantic to semi-arid on the Pacific coasts. There will be opportunities for nature studies and outdoor adventures as part of the expedition is an experiential, hands-on, study tour where participants will be actively engaged in learning.

ELIGIBILITY:

Teachers must be middle or high school agricultural or science educators with more than one year of experience as an educator.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Participants selected will be required to:

1. Obtain written approval from their school principal or superintendent from their school district.
2. Participate in a 2-hour video conference or teleconference expedition orientation that will cover the details of the trip.
3. Develop curriculum materials and classroom learning activities, within six months of completion of the expedition, to be shared with other educators.
4. Participate in all follow-up activities upon return from study tour.
5. Assume a leadership role in the promotion of teaching and learning about the agricultural sciences in their school system and elsewhere.
6. Create at least one public presentation of their expedition experience for groups such as teacher associations, community service organizations, PTOs, Board of Education, school assemblies, etc. (An electronic or hard copy of the presentations must be provided to the TEACH Program leader and managers within six months of the presentation.)
7. Complete daily journals and assignments during study tour.

Cost to Participants: The TEACH Summer 2006 international agricultural expedition is offered at little cost to selected participants. Participants will be responsible for personal travel documents, shots, medical and insurance expenses, as well as other personal expenses. Participants will be expected to provide funds for incidental expenses and an occasional meal. *Participants must provide a \$100.00 deposit, refundable upon completion of tour. If participant cancels within 2 weeks of departure, deposit will be forfeited.*

PHYSICAL FITNESS:

The study tour includes strenuous physical activities (hiking, long road trips, boating, rafting, high altitudes) in remote areas sometimes far from health facilities. It is mandatory that participants receive a physical examination before engaging in the expedition.

TEACH APPLICATION

Personal Information

Name _____

Home Address _____

Cell Phone or Pager _____

Home Phone _____

Email: home address _____

Date of Birth _____

Place of Birth (city and country) _____

Citizenship _____

Social Security number _____

Passport number _____

Emergency Contacts _____

Professional Information

Name of School _____

School Phone _____

School email _____

Check One Teacher _____ Administrator _____ Other Educator _____

Grade Level(s) teaching _____

Subject(s) teaching

Number of years worked in the educational field _____

Number of years as an educator _____

Percentage of minority students in class (average) _____

Other than English, language(s) spoken _____

TEACH APPLICATION

PART I

Background and Interests

(Please type and attach on separate paper. Limit 200 words per question.)

- A. Provide a summary of your professional background as it relates to K-12 education, including academic training, teaching/administrative experience, subjects taught, curriculum writing experience, professional honors, accomplishments and school related activities.
- B. Describe any special talents, experiences, or interests that you believe would make you an excellent candidate for this team (ex. Photography, videography, computers, writing, public speaking, graphic design, foreign language).
- C. Provide a synopsis of your plan to integrate agricultural science (and what you will have gained from this trip), aligned with learning standards, in your classroom in the future. Be sure to include agricultural technology, career, and global content, as well as summary of your evaluation plan.
- D. How do you think your participation in this trip will support achievement of educational standards in your classroom?
- E. What is the importance of teaching agricultural science in moderate to low-income areas?

PART II

- A. Attach written approval from your school principal or superintendent of your local school system.
- B. Sign your medical examination certification.

Please Return Completed Application by April 24, 2006, in hard copy and electronic format using MicroSoft WORD or Rich Text Format to:

Attn: TEACH
USDA/FAS/OA/CRO/VThompson
1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Room 6508
Washington D.C. 20250-1008
Email: Valentine.Thompson@usda.gov

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

I acknowledge that I have been advised that I will engage in strenuous, physical activities.

I certify that I have completed a physical examination prior to departure for the expedition tour overseas. I also certify that I am physically fit and that participation in strenuous physical activities will not present a health risk to me.

Print name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____